

Qualification Round Solutions

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PROBLEM A: PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION

No.	English Gloss	IPA Transcription
1	to sing	/ʃinu/
2	river	/nara/
3	to carry	/plutʃon/
4	long	/fntʃ/
5	tree	/tile/
6	cold	/gelum/
7	to sleep	/burak/
8	house	/reso/
9	to break	/radik/
10	bright	/lasao/

PROBLEM B: WORD BOUNDARIES

11. *'The long river carries the small cold stone.'*
/fntʃ nara mika gelum tʃon plutʃon/
12. *'The small bright bird sings.'*
/mika lasao kosap ʃinu/
13. *'The tall child breaks the tree easily.'*
/gopni mu tile lorra ib radik/

PROBLEM C: WORD ORDER AND PLURAL MORPHOLOGY

(a) Word Order

The basic word order is **Subject-Object-Verb (SOV)**. For example, in sentence 15 (*kanabi telum feru*), the subject *kanabi* precedes the object *telum*, while the verb *feru* appears in the final position.

(b) Plural Noun Formation

Pluralization is morphological and depends on the final segment of the noun stem:

- **Consonant-final stems** take the suffix **-i** (e.g., *kanab* → *kanabi*).
- **Vowel-final stems** take the suffix **-n** (e.g., *lomu* → *lomun*).

(c) Translation

panon kanabi o lomun baraa

PROBLEM D: VERBAL AGREEMENT

(a) Verbal Agreement System

The verbal system exhibits object agreement and a specific constraint on subject marking:

1. **Object Agreement:** Transitive verbs agree in number with the direct object. Plural objects trigger the suffix **-a** on the verb (e.g., *feru* → *furua*, *bara* → *baraa*).
2. **Subject Marking Constraint:** When the verb carries the plural object marker (**-a**), a plural subject is realized in its singular form. This is observed in sentence 23, where 'boys' appears as *telum* (singular) rather than *telumi*.

(b) Translation

kosap nara o tilen furua

Note: The subject *kosap* remains singular. The object phrase 'river and trees' is plural (where *tile* becomes *tilen*), which triggers the plural object form of the verb, *furua*.

PROBLEM E: DIALECTAL VARIATION

(a) Dialect II Agreement System

Dialect II follows an **Absolutive** agreement pattern, where the verb agrees with the Absolutive argument (the transitive object or the intransitive subject).

While both dialects mark agreement with plural transitive objects, they differ in their treatment of intransitive verbs. In Dialect I, intransitive verbs are invariant (e.g., *kanabi felu*). In contrast, Dialect II marks agreement with plural intransitive subjects (e.g., *kanabi ferua*).

(b) Prediction

'He/she dances.'

Reasoning: Since Dialect II obligatorily marks plural intransitive subjects with the suffix *-a* (meaning ‘They dance’ would appear as *felua*), the unmarked base form *felu* corresponds exclusively to the singular subject.